

Serial No. 10/036,756
Art Unit: 3654

REMARKS

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Reconsideration of the final rejection of the present application under 35 USC 103 is hereby requested.

Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gomberg '731. Claims 16, 17 and 18 have been cancelled as superfluous thus rendering the rejection of claims 16 – 18 moot.

Examiner states that Gomberg teaches among other things, that the rings of the spaced apart annular edges define a gap greater than the diameter of the support cable and less than twice the diameter of the support cable as shown in figures 1-6 and described in column 3, lines 2-17 and lines 30-33.

Applicant respectfully traverses that position. It is the intent of the Gomberg reference to put tension upon a strand of yarn to be pulled from a bobbin. This is stated on column 3, lines 3-5, "the protruding end of the yarn will be slightly compressed and grasped between the rims 4-5." Also in column 3, lines 9-11, the rims ...“ will be separated a distance equal to the

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thickness of the portion of the yarn which is grasped between the rims”. Column 3, lines 23 – 30 states the yarn ... “may be withdrawn from the proper bobbin by holding that portion of yarn which is connected to the work which is already knitted, with one hand and supporting the bobbin with the other hand and rotating it to draw the required amount of additional yarn through the narrow slot as shown in figure 1” (emphasis added). In other words, the yarn is to be pulled from the bobbin, and the bobbin is not set up to prevent a yarn segment to be pulled therefrom as in the present invention, where the spacing is critically required to be between one and two diameters of the cable in the cable shortener apparatus.

There would be no motivation for Applicants to utilize a bobbin design of Gomberg because the Gomberg patent teaches release of the yarn, not prevention of release as in Applicants’ invention! Therefore independent claims 1, 9 and 14 are thus believed allowable over the reference, such action being solicited. Respective dependent claims 2-8, 10 – 13 and 15 being dependent upon a deemed allowable independent claim are thus themselves believed allowable, such action also being solicited.

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Examiner states that Applicant look at the whole invention. The whole invention of Applicants is to prevent passage of a cable against itself extending outwardly between a set of spaced apart rims. The Gomberg reference states on column 3, lines 51 et seq. “ the bobbin, will develop the ability to place just enough bite on the yarn to permit withdrawal of yarn by jiggling the bobbin from the portion of the yarn immediately protruding from the lips 3”, (emphasis added). That is the Gomberg invention. Slippage. That is not applicant’s invention.

Examiner states on page 5 line 16 of Examiner’s letter, that “the bobbin may be manipulated to space the rims apart and may be entirely separated”. The Gomberg reference on column 3, lines 40 et seq. “ In the alternative, the two halves of the bobbin may be entirely separated, the end of the yarn may then be laid into and across the slots 8 – 9...”. Gomberg makes no suggestion of the critical spaced-apart distance of the rims of Applicant’s invention as claimed in Applicant’s independent claims.

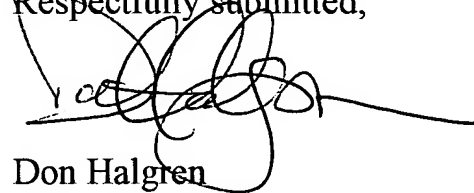
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Withdrawal of the final rejection is again requested, and passage to allowance of the remaining claims 1 – 15 is solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that any issue remains unresolved, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned for a discussion of same.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Halgren', written over the typed name.

Don Halgren

Applicants' rep.
Reg. No. 27056

35 Central Street
Manchester, MA 01944

978-526-8000 ph